2: Hutchinson E-4, 8 (1950-1951) 1957 SO11 Bahia Brazilians SO11

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346 by a large and sumptuous church, in which the first Mass was celebrated in 1722. The magnificence of the church is still present, although the original altars have been replaced by [532] new ones. Exquisite tiles depicting the life of St. Anthony, to whom the church is dedicated, line the sides of the church. The floors are of marble, and the wooden ceilings are painted [322] in oils. It is said that the marble and the painted ceilings were brought from Portugal. The woodwork in the choir loft and sacristy is beautiful hand-worked rosewood. The clock in the • [805] bell tower which rings the hour and half-hour is still the town timepiece, its sound reaching far out over the Bay. Under the marble floor, between the altar and the communion rail, are [764] the tombs of the early families of Vila Recôncavo. The names inscribed on the tombs constitute a roster of families now scattered throughout the nation.

175 It is not known exactly when the Tertiary Order of Franciscans was first formed in Vila Recôncavo, but it too has left
792 its mark on the face of the town, for it constructed another large church and two-story building at the side of the convent.
346 The chronicler of the convent in the early 1900's wrote:

> Of the epoch of the formation of the Tertiary Order and the construction of the church and buildings nothing remains, not a document exists, with the exception of one book, consisting of the elections, offices, and resolutions of the Order. This book was begun in 1853 and ended in 1866. On the ceiling of the church appears the date 1751, in white paint, which seems to be of the original workmanship, and at the side of it can be seen in black paint "repaired in 1844." The lands of the Order are known only through the tradition of the people, since no document exists. 6

If the date 1751 can be taken as the date of the construction of the church of the Tertiary Order, it can be assumed that the Order existed in Vila Recôncavo some time before this date, at least early in the 1700's. These additions to the convent were the last of the noble constructions in the town of Vila Recôncavo and took place at the end of the town's flourishing period. They were the last public expression of grandeur in the

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6. Author's translation.